

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the present amendment, applicants have canceled Claims 11, 13, and 16-17. In addition, applicants have amended Claim 8 to correct the dependency. No new matter has been added. Therefore the claims remaining for consideration by the Examiner are Claims 1-10, 12, 14-15, and 18-23.

Additionally, applicants have amended the specification to insert a claim of priority and place the Abstract on a separate sheet. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7945


John D. Thallemer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,940

Date: January 7, 2005